



The anatomy of a silent crisis

Author(s):	Global Humanitarian Forum
Year:	2009
Series:	Human Impact Report: Climate Change,
Publisher:	Global Humanitarian Forum (Geneva, Switzerland)

Abstract:

This report documents the full impact of climate change on human society worldwide today. It covers in specific detail the most critical areas of the global impact of climate change, namely on food, health, poverty, water, human displacement, and security. The third section of this report highlights the massive socio-economic implications of those impacts, in particular, that the worst affected are the world's poorest groups, who cannot be held responsible for the problem. The final section examines how sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals are in serious danger, the pressures this will exert on humanitarian assistance, and the great need to integrate efforts in adapting to climate change. Based on verified scientific information, established models, and, where needed, on the best available estimates, this report represents the most plausible narrative of the human impact of climate change. It reports in a comprehensive manner the adverse effects people already suffer today due to climate change within a single volume, encompassing the full spectrum of the most important impacts evidenced to date. The findings of the report indicate that every year climate change leaves over 300,000 people dead, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic losses of US\$125 billion. Four billion people are vulnerable, and 500 million people are at extreme risk. These figures represent averages based on projected trends over many years and carry a significant margin of error. The real numbers could be lower or higher. The different figures are each explained in more detail and in context in the relevant sections of the report. Detailed information describing how these figures have been calculated is also included in the respective sections and in the end matter of the report. -- Excerpted text.

Source: <http://www.ghf-ge.org/human-impact-report.pdf>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;
surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Sea Level Rise, Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, General Health Impact, Infectious Disease, Injury, Malnutrition/Undernutrition, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Pregnant Women

Other Vulnerable Population: Women

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content